



# THE ITTF CLASSIFICATION CODE

## Para Table Tennis

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With acknowledgement to the International Paralympic Committee for its assistance in developing this Code.

## A. THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

### PREAMBLE

The governance for table tennis rests with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) which, on 1 July 2007, accepted the transfer of governance for table tennis for persons with a disability from the International Paralympic Committee. The ITTF is the recognised governing body for table tennis and is responsible for all rules and regulations pertaining to table tennis, including classification.

The ITTF, at its bi-annual annual general meeting, appoints members to serve on its Para Table Tennis Division. The PTT Division is directly responsible for overseeing the operations of Para Table Tennis, under the auspices of the ITTF, and recommends all aspects relating to classification to the ITTF for approval.

Classification provides a structure for competition and takes place at club, national, regional and international levels. The process undertaken is to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance and that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes. Classification is an on-going process whereby all athletes are under regular observation by classifiers to ensure consistency and fairness for all athletes.

Classification has two important roles:

- To determine eligibility to compete for athletes with disability
- To group athletes equitably for competition purposes

Every athlete wishing to compete in a competition must be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status in accordance with the ITTF Classification Code and Classification Rules. No two athletes will be exactly the same and so each athlete's Sport Class is considered on the basis of his or her individual assessment. As a result, the description of the Sport Class Allocation Criteria is used as a guideline.

This IPC Classification Code details policies and procedures that should be common to all sports and sets principles to be applied by all sports within the Paralympic Movement. This Code should be read in conjunction with the classification manual. The ITTF is a signatory to the IPC Classification Code. The following ITTF Classification Process is therefore established in compliance with the IPC Classification Code.

### 1. DEFINITIONS

#### 1.1 Sport Class

A Sport Class is a category defined by the ITTF in which athletes are grouped by reference to functional ability, resulting from their impairment. Ineligibility for competition is considered as a Sport Class.

#### 1.2 Sport Class Status

The designation of a Sport Class Status identifies athletes who:

- 1.2.1 Have not previously been classified
- 1.2.2 Require a review of their Sport Class
- 1.2.3 Do not require evaluation for a specific competition as they have already been classified.

The following Sport Class Status types are used by the ITTF:

**New (N)**

Sport Class Status N is assigned to an athlete who has not been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport Class verified by the ITTF. Such athletes may have been allocated a Sport Class by their Association for entry purposes. Sport Class Status N athletes must complete evaluation at international competitions.

**Review (R)**

Sport Class Status R is assigned to an athlete who has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel but for reasons determined by the ITTF requires a review of his or her Sport Class. The athlete's current Sport Class is valid but the athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during competition. Sport Class Status R athletes must complete evaluation at international competitions.

Sport Class Status R is also assigned to athletes:

- Requiring further observation during competition to confirm their Sport Class
- Who have a fluctuating impairment
- Whose Sports Class is subject to a Protest or Re-Evaluation request.

**Permanent (P)**

Sport Class Status P is assigned to an athlete if he or she has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel and the Panel has determined that the athlete's Sport Class will not change. The ITTF recognises that the athlete's assigned Sport Class is valid and will not be altered before or during competition once a Sports Class Status P is assigned to the athlete. Sports Class Status P athletes therefore do not have to complete evaluation at international competitions except if a re-evaluation of their Sport Class has been requested by the Association or Medical Officer due to a change in the medical status of the athlete.

**Confirmed (C)**

Sport Class Status C is the same Sports Class Status as P above but is used only for the Paralympic Games and no re-evaluation is possible at the Paralympic Games unless the athlete has been given a Sport Class Status R prior to the Paralympic Games.

### **1.3 Eligibility to compete**

The ITTF eligibility criteria define how an athlete may be considered eligible to compete. These criteria are based on the specific functions which are required to compete equitably with other athletes with a disability. An athlete who meets the ITTF eligibility criteria is not automatically considered as being eligible to compete in another sport as those criteria are defined by that specific sport.

To be eligible to compete, an athlete must have an impairment that leads to a permanent and verifiable functional limitation that has an impact on sport performance. If an athlete has an activity limitation resulting from an impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit his or her ability to compete equitably in table tennis with athletes without impairment, the athlete is considered ineligible to compete.

If an athlete fails to meet the ITTF eligibility criteria, he or she will be declared ineligible for competition. However, the fact that an athlete is deemed ineligible for competition does not question the presence of his or her genuine impairment.

The eligibility is specified in the classification manual under the description of classes and includes spinal cord lesion, amputees, cerebral palsy, les autres and intellectual disability.

## **2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **2.1 International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**

The IPC Classification Committee is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to the IPC Classification Code.

The IPC's Medical and Scientific Director is responsible for the administration of the provisions of the IPC Classification Code.

The IPC:

- 2.1.1 develops, maintains and monitors implementation of the Code, International Standards and Models of Best Practice
- 2.1.2 requires, as a condition of membership, that all IPC Members, including the ITTF, complies with the Code
- 2.1.3 imposes appropriate sanctions on organisations which do not comply with the Code (which may include suspending membership and rights to participate in the Paralympic Games).

### **2.2 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)**

The ITTF, as the International Sport Federation, has the following roles and responsibilities to:

- 2.2.1 develop, implement and regularly review the classification process, including eligibility criteria, in compliance with the Code
- 2.2.2 appoint a Medical Officer
- 2.2.3 appoint classifiers for appropriate composition of classification panels for competitions, including the appointment of the Chief Classifier
- 2.2.4 promote classification research in order to develop and maintain descriptions for Sport Classes
- 2.2.5 inform all concerned parties (IPC, classifiers, athletes, Associations) of any changes made to the classification process or eligibility criteria and to publish these updates on the ITTF website
- 2.2.6 detail protest procedures
- 2.2.7 detail re-evaluation procedures
- 2.2.8 organise classification training and certification
- 2.2.9 determine the criteria to become a classifier, the levels of classifier, the content of seminars and the methods of maintaining certification
- 2.2.10 publish and regularly update a classifier database
- 2.2.11 publish and regularly update the Classification Master List
- 2.2.12 review regularly the compliance with the Code and address issues of non-compliance
- 2.2.13 publish any sanctions imposed on athletes, athlete support personnel or classifiers.

### **2.3 National Associations (NAs) and National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)**

It is the responsibility of Associations to ensure that athletes are classified at a national level before competing at an international competition. This may be done in close cooperation with the NPC.

It is the right of an Association to submit a protest through its Representative. Similarly re-evaluations may only be requested by the Association Representative of the athlete who is requiring a new classification.

During the classification process, it is also the Association’s responsibility to ensure that athletes provide supporting medical documentation written in English, when presenting for an evaluation.

**2.4 Major competition organisers**

It is the responsibility of major competition organisers to comply with the ITTF Classification Code as well as the ITTF rules and ITTF PTT regulations.

**3. THE ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION PATHWAY**

The table hereafter details how the athlete evaluation proceeds pursuant to the ITTF classification process:

<p>3.1 Pre-Competition Tasks</p> <p>Inclusion of classification rules in the agreement with the LOC          Appointment of classification panel and the Chief Classifier          Identification of athletes for evaluation          Collection of supporting classification documentation          Preparation and distribution of the classification evaluation schedule          Organisation of the classification evaluation logistics</p>
<p>3.2 Athlete presentation for evaluation</p> <p>Athlete presentation          Verification of accreditation, collation of documentation and health check          Classification process briefing          Completion of consent forms</p>
<p>3.3 Athlete Assessment</p> <p>Physical assessment          Technical assessment          Observation assessment (training and competition sessions)          If applicable, ineligibility re-evaluation          Assignment of initial sport class and sport class status</p>
<p>3.4 Notification of the outcome to relevant parties</p>

**3.1 Pre-competition tasks**

- 3.1.1 The Classification Rules must be included in the agreement with the Local Organising Committee (LOC). The ITTF stipulates the facilities and support infrastructure required as part of its agreement with the LOC
- 3.1.2 The Classification Secretary, in consultation with the Medical Officer, appoints a Chief Classifier and classifiers for the competition and informs the LOC of the Chief Classifier’s contact details at least three (3) months prior to the event
- 3.1.3 The Classification Secretary identifies athletes for evaluation (Sport Class Status N and R) against the Classification Master List once all entries have been collated by the LOC and adds Sport Class Status N athletes to the Player Classification Form

- 3.1.4 The Classification Secretary will collect supporting classification documentation and submit to the Chief Classifier for Sport Class Status R and P athletes and will inform Sport Class Status N athletes to bring supporting documentation with them to the evaluation to assist the classification panel in its deliberations including, but not limited to, medical reports in English and X-rays
- 3.1.5 The Classification Secretary will prepare the classification evaluation schedule in consultation with the LOC for the LOC to distribute to Associations well in advance of the competition. Athletes with Sport Class Status N and R are included on the classification evaluation schedule. In major events, a minimum of two (2) clear days is recommended for the classification evaluation period
- 3.1.6 The Classification Secretary will liaise with the LOC to organise the classification evaluation logistics and inform the classification panel of arrangements. Logistics include:
  - 3.1.6.1 Identification of classifiers for the competition
  - 3.1.6.2 Facilities and venue for athlete evaluation, including appropriate equipment and technology support for physical and technical evaluation, administration, support personnel
  - 3.1.6.3 Accommodation, meals and daily allowance
  - 3.1.6.4 Travel arrangements to and from the host city
  - 3.1.6.5 Transportation during the event

A minimum of four (4) weeks should be allowed to give the Chief Classifier and Classification Secretary adequate time before the competition to perform these tasks.

### **3.2 The Athlete's preparation for evaluation**

Athletes should allow at least one (1) hour for classification evaluation encompassing the physical, technical evaluations as well as the initial observation of the athlete. Athletes must present themselves to classification evaluation as if they were going to compete. This means they must wear sport dress and shoes, bring their full sport equipment, wheelchair to be used during play, all devices, additions, supporting structures, strapping, belts, orthotics, prosthetics used during play as well as their passport. Should this not happen, it may be considered as Non-Cooperation during Classification with consequences set out below.

The athlete may be accompanied by an interpreter and not more than one (1) representative of the athlete's Association. The Chief Classifier or a designated representative will meet the athlete and his or her accompanying support staff in a reception area to:

- 3.2.1 Identify the athlete and check the data in PCF (surname, name, date of birth, country with the data in the athlete's passport or other relevant ID)
- 3.2.2 Verify the accreditation of the athlete and any accompanying support staff (if not done by a representative of the LOC)
- 3.2.3 Check that the athlete has met all of the clothing and equipment requirements for his or her evaluation
- 3.2.4 Collect the documentation that the athlete was requested to bring.

A classification panel member may additionally request information on the health of an athlete prior to evaluation. Failure to provide this information may be deemed to constitute Non-Cooperation during evaluation. If an athlete has a health condition that causes pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation, continuing with the evaluation may not be appropriate at that time. The Chief Classifier may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation.

Prior to the athlete evaluation, a classification panel member will answer any questions the athlete and his or her accompanying support staff may have regarding the procedures involved in the classification process. The athlete is encouraged to ask further questions at any time during the classification evaluation.

Athletes must consent to evaluation by signing a classification consent form, including an indemnity clause, to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full effort and cooperation throughout the classification process.

If an athlete fails to attend the evaluation as scheduled, he or she will not be allocated a Sport Class or a Sport Class Status and will not be permitted to compete at that competition. However, should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the athlete's failure to attend the evaluation, the athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend the evaluation.

If an athlete is found not to have cooperated during the evaluation, the ITTF will not permit him or her to undergo any further evaluation for a minimum of three months (or such greater period of time as deemed appropriate by the ITTF Executive Committee on the recommendation of the PTT Division), starting from the date upon which the athlete failed to cooperate.

### **3.3 The Athlete's evaluation**

The athlete's evaluation may include, but is not limited to:

- 3.3.1 physical assessment: the classification panel conducts a physical assessment of the athlete in accordance with the ITTF methods of assessment. This includes, but is not limited to, the examination of physical aspects like form, length, missing limb or part of a limb, general movement, speed, range of movement, muscle tone, strength, balance, coordination, endurance, sensorial or other abilities or intellectual abilities.
- 3.3.2 technical assessment: the classification panel conducts a technical assessment of the athlete in accordance with the ITTF methods of assessment. This includes, but is not limited to, the evaluation in a non-competitive environment of the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport of table tennis.
- 3.3.3 observation assessment: the classification panel may apply certain conditions to the athlete in order to observe how he or she performs the activity under simulated sport conditions. The classification panel may observe the athlete performing specific table tennis skills during training, warm-up and/or the competition. Video footage and/or photography may be used by the classification panel for any classification purpose connected to the competition. At all times, the classification panel will use its best endeavours not to interfere with the athlete's focus on competition.

The physical and the technical assessments take place during the evaluation period. The observation assessment takes place during the classification evaluation period (in case of official training sessions) and/or during the competition.

The athlete will be allocated a Sport Class together with a Sport Class Status after the evaluation, if possible, or should further observation be necessary, after the observation assessment. As soon as possible after the evaluation session, the athlete, his or her accompanying support staff, the technical delegate and referee will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation in terms of Sport Class and Sport Class Status (name of athlete, initial Sport Class, new or permanent class). The Chief Classifier will provide the athlete

with an International Classification Card, a copy of which will be kept by the Classification Secretary.

### 3.4 Intentional misrepresentation of skills and/or abilities

An athlete who, in the opinion of the classification panel, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities shall be considered to have violated the ITTF Classification Process.

If an athlete intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, he or she will not be allocated a Sport Class or a Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that competition.

In addition, the ITTF will:

- 3.4.1 not allow the athlete to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of two (2) years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities
- 3.4.2 remove any Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to the athlete from the Classification Master List
- 3.4.3 designate the athlete as IM (intentional misrepresentation) in the Classification Master List
- 3.4.4 forward this finding to IPC with the recommendation that the IPC, IFs and IPSFs not allow the athlete to undergo any evaluation for any sport for a period of two (2) years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities.

If an athlete, on a second separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, he or she will receive a lifetime ban from ITTF sanctioned competitions and will be subject to other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the ITTF Executive Committee. Further, this will be reported to the IPC with the recommendation that, in relation to the Paralympic Games or any other sanctioned competition, the IPC similarly not allow the athlete to compete.

The ITTF will enforce sanctions against any athlete support personnel who assist or encourage an athlete to fail to attend athlete evaluation, not to cooperate, intentionally to misrepresent skills and/or abilities or to disrupt the evaluation process in any way. Those who are involved in advising athletes intentionally to misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions which are at least as severe as the sanctions enforced on the athlete.

## 4. PROTESTS

The term “protest” refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete’s Sport Class is made immediately after the athlete has been evaluated. Protests are therefore only submitted during competitions as reflected in the table below:

Athlete Sport Class Status	Protest submitted by athlete’s Association and/or another Association	Protest submitted by Chief Classifier
New (N)	Yes	Yes
Review (R)	Yes	Yes
Permanent (P)	Yes	Yes
Confirmed (C)	No	No*

\* see 4.3 below

4.1 The procedure followed if a protest is received after the first classification of an athlete is:

- 4.1.1 a protest may only be submitted by the Chef de Mission or Team Leader, the Head Coach or the representative of the athlete's Association (or NPC)
  - 4.1.2 a protest must be submitted within 30 minutes maximum after a Sport Class has been allocated and the player informed
  - 4.1.3 the protest must be submitted to the Chief Classifier at the competition
  - 4.1.4 the protest must be written in English and on the official protest form (found on the ITTF website) with all relevant documents attached
  - 4.1.5 the protest will be addressed if it is submitted:
    - 4.1.5.1 during the Regional Championships: during those Championships by another classification panel
    - 4.1.5.2 at another competition: the protest form will be sent to the Classification Secretary and the player will be retested during the next competition he or she enters
  - 4.1.6 the protest must be accompanied by a protest fee of €50,00 handed to the Chief Classifier so the protest can be processed before the athlete's next match subject to 4.1.5 above
  - 4.1.7 members of the protest panel shall have no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 18 months prior to the protest being submitted
  - 4.1.8 the protest panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an athlete's Sport Class
  - 4.1.9 the decision of the protest panel will be announced to the player and the Association Representative and given in writing on the protest form and:
    - 4.4.1.1 if the protest panel approves a change in the Sport Class, the protest fees will be refunded (i.e. the protest is supported by the classifiers)
    - 4.4.1.2 if the protest panel does not change the Sport Class, the protest fees will not be refunded (i.e. the protest is not supported by the classifiers)
  - 4.1.10 in each case, regardless of the outcome, the decision of the protest panel will be the final decision and no further protest will be accepted
  - 4.1.11 the identity of an athlete may not be disclosed before the completion of a protest against his or her Sport Class.
- 4.2 The procedure followed if a protest is received from an Association against an athlete of another country is:
- 4.2.1 a protest may only be submitted by the Chef de Mission or Team Leader, the Head Coach or the representative of the athlete's Association
  - 4.2.2 the protest must be submitted at any time once a Sport Class is allocated to a player
  - 4.2.3 the protest must be submitted to the Classification Secretary by e-mail at any time, or to the Chief Classifier during competition
  - 4.2.4 the protest form must be written in English on the official protest form (found on the ITTF website) with all relevant and necessary documents attached
  - 4.2.5 the protest will be addressed if it is submitted:
    - 4.2.5.1 during the Regional Championships: during those Championships by another classification panel
    - 4.2.5.2 at another competition: the protest form will be sent to the Classification Secretary who will inform the Association representative of two (2) or three (3) tournaments where and when the protest may be addressed by classifiers different from the first panel and the player will be retested during the next selected competition he or she enters
  - 4.2.6 the protest must be accompanied by a protest fee of €150,00 handed to the Chief Classifier so the protest can be processed before the athlete's next match subject to 4.2.5 above

- 4.2.7 if the completed protest form and the protest fees are not submitted to the Chief Classifier, the protest will not be addressed
  - 4.2.8 members of the protest panel shall have no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 18 months prior to the protest being submitted
  - 4.2.9 the protest panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an athlete's Sport Class
  - 4.2.10 the decision of the protest panel will be announced to the player and Association representative and given in writing on the protest form and:
    - 4.2.10.1 if the protest panel approves a change in the Sport Class, the protest fees will be refunded (i.e. the protest is supported by the classifiers)
    - 4.2.10.2 if the protest panel does not change the Sport Class, the protest fees will not be refunded (i.e. the protest is not supported by the classifiers)
  - 4.2.11 in each case, regardless of the outcome, the decision of the protest panel will be final and no further protest will be accepted.
- 4.3 Exceptional circumstances may exist if a Chief Classifier believes that an athlete's Permanent Sport Class no longer reflects the athlete's ability to compete equitably within that Sport Class. Such exceptional circumstances may result from:
- 4.3.1 A change in the degree of impairment of an athlete
  - 4.3.2 An athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition which does not reflect the athlete's current Sport Class
  - 4.3.3 An error made by a Classification Panel, which has led to the athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the athlete's ability
  - 4.3.4 Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the athlete's most recent evaluation.

A Protest made in exceptional circumstances shall follow the same process detailed above.

Any change in Sports Class or Sports Class Status resulting from a protest will not take effect earlier than 24 hours before the draw of any event at a Factor 20 or 50 competition at which protest was upheld. The tournament jury (the technical delegate, referee and Chief Classifier) has the right to change the time limit to less than 24 hours in special circumstances. In world championships (Factor 80) and Paralympic Games (Factor 100), all classification changes made before or during the tournament will not take effect until the next tournament.

The table below describes the protest pathway:

<p><i>Step 1. Pre-Competition Tasks</i></p> <p>Communicate details on the Protest Procedures to all relevant Associations            Distribute the template of the Protest Form            Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Protests should be submitted</p>
<p><i>Step 2. Protest Submission</i></p> <p>Protest Form completed by the athlete's Association            Protest Form signed and submitted by the appropriate person            Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Protest Form            Payment of the Protest Fee            All documents submitted to the Chief Classifier for the relevant competition</p>
<p><i>Step 3. Protest Submission Review by the Chief Classifier</i></p> <p>Chief Classifier reviews all documentation and information submitted with the Protest Form</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Step 4. Decision on the Protest Submission by the Chief Classifier</i></p> <p>If dismissed: the Chief Classifier notifies the submitting party, explaining the reason for rejection  If accepted: proceed to step 5</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Step 5. Preparation of Protest Resolution by the Chief Classifier</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appointment of a protest panel</p> <p>Advise all relevant parties about when, where and how the protest will be handled</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Step 6. Protest Resolution by the protest panel</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Review of all documentation and information  Protest evaluation conducted</p> <p>Allocation of the athlete to a new and non-protestable Sport Class or dismiss the protest and confirm Sport Class</p> <p>Chief Classifier informed of the decision of protest panel, confirms the outcome to relevant parties in writing</p>

## 5. APPEAL

An appeal may be submitted by an Association specifying the classification procedures which were allegedly not followed. The procedure to be followed is:

- 5.1 an appeal may only be submitted by the Chef de Mission or Team Leader or the representative of the athlete's Association
- 5.2 an appeal must be submitted within one (1) hour after the classification evaluation where a Sport Class has been allocated and the player informed
- 5.3 the appeal must be submitted to the technical delegate at the competition
- 5.4 the appeal must be written in English and on the official appeal form (found on the ITTF website) with all relevant documents attached
- 5.5 the appeal must be accompanied by a fee of €150,00 handed to the technical delegate so the appeal can be processed immediately
- 5.6 if the completed appeal form and the fee are not submitted within one (1) hour to the technical delegate, the appeal will lapse
- 5.7 the jury (technical delegate, Chief Classifier and referee) will consider the appeal
- 5.8 the jury may seek any necessary expertise in reviewing the appeal
- 5.9 the decision of the jury will be announced to the player and Association representative and given in writing on the appeal form and:
  - 5.9.1 if the jury upholds the appeal, the appeal fee will be refunded and the athlete put for review at the next possible tournament
  - 5.9.2 if the jury rejects the appeal, the fee will not be refunded and the Sport Class allocated will be confirmed
- 5.10 in each case, regardless of the outcome, the decision of the jury will be final and no further appeal will be accepted.

## 6. RE-EVALUATION REQUEST

The term "re-evaluation" refers to the procedure by which an Association, or an international classifier, undertakes, several weeks, months or years after a Sport Class has been allocated to an athlete in requesting the re-evaluation of that athlete.

This re-evaluation request can be initiated by an international classifier who actually sees the athlete's performance and ability during a competition and considers that these no longer reflect his or her appropriate Sport Class.

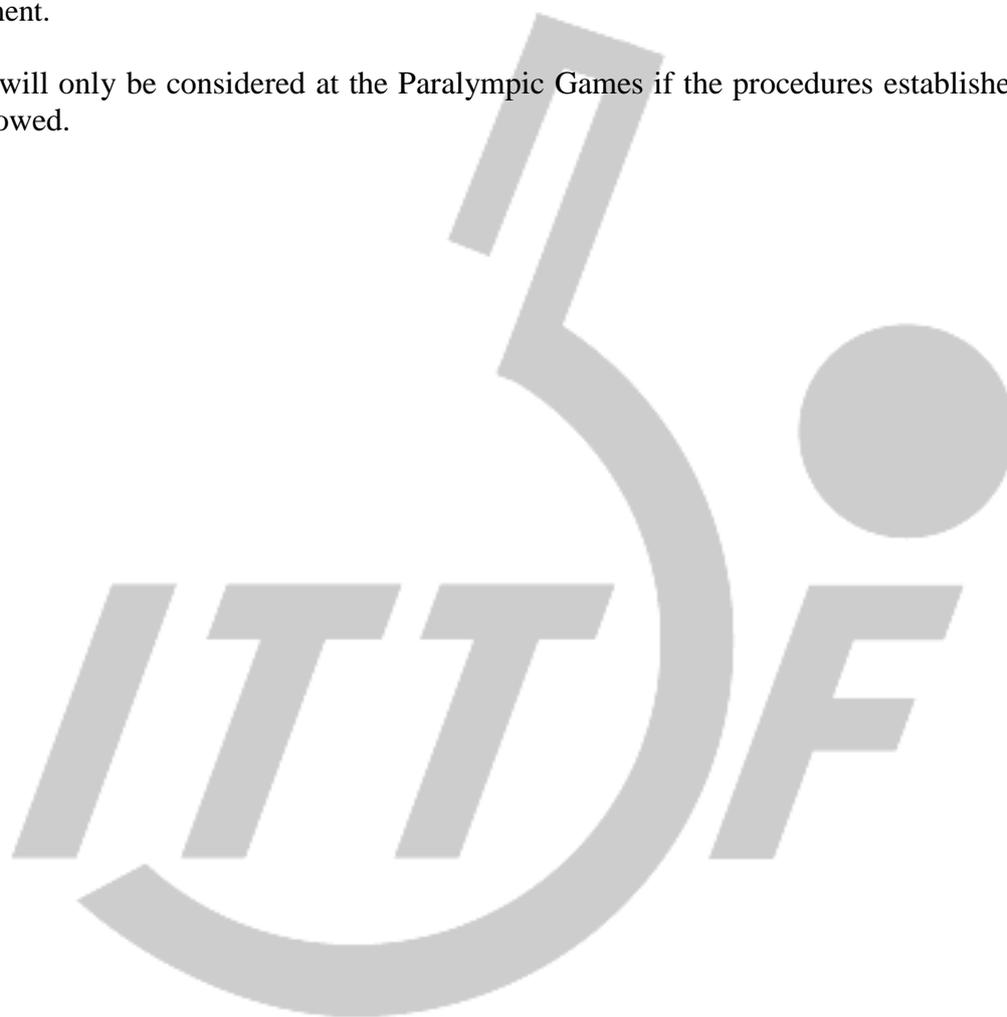
An athlete, through his or her Association representative, may request a re-evaluation as result of a change in the degree of his or her impairment or following changes made to the ITTF Sport Class Allocation Criteria.

- 6.1 In the event of a re-evaluation request being submitted, the following procedures apply:
- 6.1.1 a re-evaluation request may only be submitted by the Chef de Mission or Team Leader, the Head Coach or the representative of the athlete's Association
  - 6.1.2 the re-evaluation request may be submitted at any time but at least two (2) weeks before the start of a competition but no sooner than twelve (12) months after a Sport Class has been allocated to the athlete
  - 6.1.3 a re-evaluation request must be submitted to Classification Secretary by e-mail at least two (2) weeks before the start of the competition at which the re-evaluation will take place
  - 6.1.4 the re-evaluation request must be written in English on the official re-evaluation request form (found on the ITTF website) with all relevant documents attached; however, with the consent of the Classification Secretary, relevant documents may be submitted to the Chief Classifier at the competition where the re-evaluation will take place
  - 6.1.5 if the Sport Class was allocated at:
    - 6.1.5.1 a Regional Championships, the re-evaluation can be addressed only during the next Regional Championships or world championships or, should the athlete not participate in one of these events, at another tournament at the discretion of the Medical Officer
    - 6.1.5.2 a lower factor tournament, the re-evaluation can be addressed at the next relevant Fa20 tournament, regional or world championships
  - 6.1.6 the re-evaluation request must be accompanied by a re-evaluation fee of €50,00 handed to the Chief Classifier at the event where the re-evaluation will take place accompanied by all relevant documentation or paid beforehand into the ITTF account; however, if any of the documentation submitted is not in English, a re-evaluation fee of €150,00 must be paid to the Chief Classifier or the Classification Secretary
  - 6.1.7 members of the re-evaluation panel shall have had no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 18 months prior to the protest being submitted
  - 6.1.8 the re-evaluation panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an athlete's Sport Class
  - 6.1.9 the decision of the re-evaluation panel will be announced to the player and the Association representative and given in writing on the re-evaluation request form and:
    - 6.1.9.1 if the re-evaluation panel approves a change in the Sport Class, the re-evaluation fees will be refunded (i.e. the re-evaluation is supported by the classifiers)
    - 6.1.9.2 if the re-evaluation panel does not change the Sport Class, the re-evaluation fees will not be refunded (i.e. the re-evaluation is not supported by the classifiers)
  - 6.1.10 in each case, regardless of the outcome, the decision of the re-evaluation panel will be final decision and no protest against this decision will be accepted

6.2 A Chief Classifier can at anytime inform the Classification Secretary of the need to re-evaluate the Sport Class of an athlete in which case, no medical support documents written in English or re-evaluation fees are required.

Any change in Sports Class or Sports Class Status resulting from a re-evaluation request will not take effect earlier than 24 hours before the draw of any event at a Factor 20 or 50 competition at which re-evaluation was upheld. The tournament jury has the right to change the time limit to less than 24 hours in special circumstances. In world championships (Factor 80) and Paralympic Games (Factor 100), all classification changes made before or during the tournament will not take effect until the next tournament.

Re-evaluations will only be considered at the Paralympic Games if the procedures established by the IPC are followed.



Para Table Tennis

## **B. CLASSIFICATION TRAINING AND ORGANISATION**

### **PREAMBLE**

The purpose of Classifier Training and Certification is to detail the accepted procedures for the management of classifier training and certification. The ITTF classification training and organisation has been established in compliance with the IPC's International Standard.

### **1. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

Classifiers are officials trained and certified by the ITTF in order to be able to determine an athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status. Classifiers do not allocate international Sport Class and Sport Class Status as individuals; they work as members of a classification panel.

An ITTF classification panel must include a minimum of two classifiers; one with medical and the other with technical expertise. Classifiers must have a wide range of expertise, including medical knowledge and table tennis expertise and technical qualifications. Specific qualification criteria have therefore been determined by the ITTF for its future classifiers. These prerequisites mainly concern professional qualifications and/or experience in table tennis, which they must be able to prove.

ITTF classification panels include classifiers with:

- 1.1 medical and/or health-related professional training (for example doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists) and
- 1.2 table tennis expertise and technical qualifications and/or expertise (for example sport scientists, coaches, former athletes, physical educators).

### **2. CLASSIFIER CERTIFICATION**

Classifier certification establishes that an individual has met the competencies and is proficient to practise as a classifier in table tennis. The ITTF has determined three (3) levels of certification viz. A, B and C:

#### **2.1 Trainee Classifier – Level A (after one (1) seminar)**

An individual who, after successfully completing his or her first classification seminar, is in the process of formal training but who is not yet certified as a classifier and may therefore not be appointed a member of a classification panel at an international competition. This individual is unable to allocate an international Sport Class.

#### **2.2 National Classifier - Level B (after second seminar)**

An individual who, after successfully completing his or her second classification seminar, has been certified as a classifier can be a member of a classification panel at a national competition. This individual may participate in the assignment of Sport Class, as a member of the classification panel, under supervision of more experienced classifiers.

#### **2.3 International Classifier – Level C (after third seminar)**

An individual who, after successfully completing his or her third seminar, has demonstrated the appropriate level of theoretical knowledge and practical experience as a table tennis classifier, and is able to allocate a Sport Class and Sport Class Status and show sound and

appropriate knowledge of all procedures required during the classification process, including protests and reviews.

#### 2.4 Senior international classifier

An active and experienced international classifier who is able to participate in the most complex matters of classification at a theoretical and practical level, including the basic tasks of developing the classification system, may be accredited as a senior international classifier by the Medical Committee on recommendation of the Medical Officer. A senior international classifier may also be able to act as a lecturer in educating classifiers.

#### 2.5 Classifier – Lecturer

An experienced international classifier with a very good theoretical and practical knowledge of either the medical or technical aspects of classification, with a demonstrated ability to participate in the educational process of classifiers may be appointed as a lecturer by the Medical Committee on the recommendation of the Medical Officer.

### 3. ASSESSING AND MAINTAINING COMPETENCIES

The methods of obtaining certification include theoretical education, practical education and training combined with mentorship which are provided through classification seminars. Thus, the methods of obtaining certification include theoretical education, practical education and training and mentorship.

In order to become a classifier, over and above section 2 above, the candidate must:

- 3.1 Participate in the education process to become a classifier by following the classification seminar at regular intervals in order to be promoted from level A to C
- 3.2 Be assessed as competent by the lecturer, Medical Officer or Chief Classifier against the modules of the classification seminar:
  - 3.2.1 theory modules covering medical and technical aspects
  - 3.2.2 practical component covering medical and technical aspects
  - 3.2.3 table tennis practice
- 3.3 Improve their skills and understanding between classification seminars in both theory through individual study and practice by developing table tennis skills and testing

There are three (3) levels of seminar from Level A to Level B and Level C.

The content of the seminars covers a theoretical education module (dealing with medical and technical issues), a practical education and training module (including table tennis practice) complemented by a gradual structure from the basic knowledge required in Level A to the advanced in Level C, supported by appropriate teaching material. The content of each level of seminar, the duration of its modules and the seminar as a whole is specified by the Medical Committee.

There must be a minimum interval of one (1) year between completing the Level A seminar and obtaining certification as a Level A classifier and registering for the Level B seminar during which time the Trainee Classifier must prove involvement in table tennis activities and disability sports at a national level.

After participating in a Level B seminar, passing the test and being certified a Level B classifier, he or she may only register for a Level C seminar after a minimum of two (2) years during which

the National Classifier must demonstrate active involvement in table tennis activities at a national level.

Level A classification seminars may be organised after the approval of a competent regional board.

Level B and C classification seminars may be organised only at an international level if both a medical and technical lecturer are available.

Information about classification seminars for the subsequent year including, time, place and level is approved by the Medical Committee and published together with competition programme for the next year.

The assessment of classification competencies at Level A is done by a person appointed at a regional level. The assessment at Level B and C is done by the Medical Officer or nominee.

Assessment procedures to measure proficiency in the specific competencies assessed include, but are not limited to:

- at level A on a regional level, personal contact through the seminar as well as a test for both theory and practical modules showing a good understanding of the level of the seminar, demonstrate knowledge of the observation process and confirm their competence through practical implementation of classification in their home countries; using the manual as teaching material, show an understanding of content of manual, good knowledge of the medical or technical part (depending on their background) and basic understanding in the other part (medical or technical)
- at level B by the Medical Officer or nominee through personal contact and by using a mentor system showing advanced knowledge in the medical or technical part plus satisfactory knowledge in the other medical or technical part (depending on their background), show ability to do (does not mean will work alone) classification in all aspects and to allocate a Sports Class
- at level C by the Medical Officer or nominee through personal contact and by using a mentor system showing advanced knowledge in both the medical or technical aspects of classification in the theoretical and practical aspects, be able to work alone and to manage all administrative and procedural aspects of the classification process
- the Medical Committee performing an annual assessment of all unofficial national classifications done by level A and B classifiers for their national athletes before the athlete first enters an international competition as a new (N) player

Methods of maintaining certification may include, but are not limited to:

- active participation in the classification process at a national and international level
- refresher courses for classifiers Level B after the required interval between seminars
- refresher and upgrade courses for Level C classifiers after a period of inactivity in the classification process internationally
- an annual assessment by the Medical Committee of all unofficial national classifications done by level A and B classifiers for their national athletes before the athlete first enters an international competition as a new (N) player

- an annual assessment done by the Medical Committee of the quality of all international classifications done by all classifiers from an administrative and practical perspective

If an ITTF Classifier has not maintained his or her certification by not taking part in refresher courses for five (5) years, and would like to become an active classifier again, he or she must follow the full classification seminar again.

#### **4. NOTIFICATION OF CERTIFICATION**

The Medical Officer is the head of the classification training organisation. He or she appoints senior lecturers or other lecturers who can certify successful candidates who have attended the required number of classification seminars.

Once a classifier has met the requirements of the ITTF after participating successfully in classification seminars and has reached the appropriate level of competence, the Medical Officer issues a certificate to acknowledge the classifier's classification credentials. The certification information provided is then copied and communicated to the Association.

The ITTF publishes and regularly updates an online list of its classifiers.

#### **5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

The ITTF appoints a Medical Officer who is responsible for all administration, coordination and implementation of classification for a two (2) year period.

##### **5.1 The duties of the Medical Officer include to:**

- 5.1.1 Examine the current status of classification on a regular basis
- 5.1.2 Lead the design, planning and recommendation of programmes and policies of the ITTF for medical and classification matters
- 5.1.3 Administer and coordinate classification activities, including serving as a member of the PTT Division
- 5.1.4 Appoint classifiers in line with the appropriate composition of classification panels for competitions, including appointing Chief Classifiers
- 5.1.5 Organise and conduct the ITTF classifier training and certification
- 5.1.6 Ensure the classification database is maintained and regularly updated by a person appointed to do so and that classification records are accurate
- 5.1.7 Assess the classifier database to track classifier activity and certification
- 5.1.8 Ensure the classification master list is maintained and regularly updated by an authorised person
- 5.1.9 Inform classifiers of any changes in the classification process and request feedback on issues which affect table tennis and the classification process
- 5.1.10 Liaise with all relevant external parties, such as the IPC Classification Committee, IPC Medical and Scientific Department and Organising Committees.

The Chief Classifier is appointed for a specific competition as a head of the classification panel. This position also may be filled by the Medical Officer.

##### **5.2 The duties of the Chief Classifier include to:**

- 5.2.1 Administer and coordinate classification for a specific competition pre, during and after the classification evaluation and competition period, ensuring effective liaison with the

- organising committee, Medical Officer, Classification Secretary, technical delegate, referee and other competent persons to support preparations for a successful competition
- 5.2.2 Liaise with Organising Committees and teams before a competition to identify and notify athletes who require evaluation for Sport Class and Sport Class Status
  - 5.2.3 Supervise classifiers to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately during the competition
  - 5.2.4 Supervise classifiers and trainee classifiers in their duties as members of classification panels, and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies
  - 5.2.5 During competition, supervise all administrative matters concerning classification, and after the competition, deliver the completed PCF, copies of International Classification Cards and all other documents to the Classification Secretary.

Classifiers are appointed as members of the classification panel for a specific competition. No classifier, including the Medical Officer and Chief Classifier, may undertake responsibilities as a member of a national team at the competition.

5.3 The duties of a classifier include to:

- 5.3.1 Work as a member of the classification panel to allocate an athlete's Sport Class and a Sport Class Status
- 5.3.2 Work as a member of a protest panel, if so requested by the Chief Classifier
- 5.3.3 Work as a member of a re-evaluation panel, if so requested by the Chief Classifier
- 5.3.4 Attend classification meetings at competitions
- 5.3.5 Assist in classifier training and certification (for example being involved in organising and teaching at classification seminars) as may be requested by the Medical Officer, Chief Classifier or the Classifier appointed to be in charge of classification training process at the competition.

5.4 The duties of the trainee classifier include to:

- 5.4.1 Participate actively and observe to learn the classification rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies for Certification
- 5.4.2 Attend classification meetings at competitions.
- 5.4.3 Undertake no responsibilities as a member of a national team at the competition where classification training takes place to allow full participation in the classification training.

All classifiers are also responsible for promoting awareness of classification in their countries of origin as well as when at a competition. Similarly, all classifiers are expected to contribute to the further development of the classification process.

## **6. CLASSIFICATION CODE OF CONDUCT**

The role of classifiers is to act as impartial evaluators in determining an athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The integrity of classification in the ITTF and Paralympic Movement rests on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual classifier.

The Code of Conduct, applicable to all classifiers, includes that classifiers:

- 6.1 Recognise the need to preserve and encourage confidence in the integrity of classification rules and the classification personnel. This confidence must be inherent within all those involved in the ITTF and Paralympic Movement and within the general public

- 6.2 Implement transparent and agreed standards of practice and provide a meaningful set of guidelines for professional conduct of classification personnel
- 6.3 Provide to others (including, but not limited to athletes, athlete support personnel, administrators, organising committees, media and the public) the criteria by which to assess the professional conduct of classification personnel
- 6.4 Value and respect the athletes and athlete support personnel
- 6.5 Treat athletes and athlete support personnel with understanding, patience and dignity
- 6.6 Be courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing their classification duties for all athletes, regardless of team affiliation or national origin
- 6.7 Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with athletes and athlete support personnel
- 6.8 Perform classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances
- 6.9 Maintain confidentiality of athlete information whenever possible
- 6.10 Respect the ITTF classification process, accurately and honestly representing their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting classification appointments to competitions
- 6.11 Understand the theory and practical aspects of the classification process and make them widely known to and understood by athletes and athlete support personnel
- 6.12 Seek self-improvement continuously through study of table tennis, the classification process, mentoring lesser-experienced classifiers and developing trainee classifiers
- 6.13 Perform duties without yielding to any economic, political, sporting or human pressure
- 6.14 Recognise that anything that may lead to a Conflict of Interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided or declared to the Chief Classifier
- 6.15 Disclose any relationship with a team, athlete or athlete support personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest
- 6.16 Respect their colleagues
- 6.17 Treat all discussions with colleagues as confidential information
- 6.18 Explain and justify decisions without showing anger or resentment
- 6.19 Treat other classifiers with professional dignity and courtesy, recognizing that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to criticise other classifiers, Games officials or technical advisors in public
- 6.20 Respect publicly and privately the decisions and decision making process of fellow classifiers, Games officials and technical advisors
- 6.21 Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills with less experienced classifiers and assist with the training and development of classifiers.

## **7. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The ITTF may take disciplinary action against classifiers if a violation of the Classification Code of Conduct occurs.

Should any allegation of misconduct related to classification be reported to an official involved in a competition (organiser, ITTF or team official), this must in turn be reported to the Chief Classifier. This must be investigated fully, considering all information available, and reported to the Chairperson of the ITTF PTT Division. Depending on the recommendations made, further action or counselling may be necessary.

Should the allegation involve the Chief Classifier, this must be reported to the technical delegate who will investigate fully, considering all information available and report to the Chairperson of the PTT Division.

In either case, should further action be necessary, a disciplinary hearing will be convened either telephonically or at the next available competition opportunity.

Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action against them may include a variety of sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revoking their certification as an ITTF classifier for any period of time.





**CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM**  
**After first classification**

Association/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M - F

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for protest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:**

**Protest must be submitted within the 30 minutes after the classification, with a deposit of €50,00 protest fee.**

**If the protest is accepted, the €50,00 protest fee will be refunded to the protester.**

**If the protest is not accepted, the protest fee will not be refunded.**

**This completed form must be submitted to the Chief Classifier.**

**Signatures:**

Association Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Classifier: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROTEST RESOLUTION**

Protest: **accepted / not accepted**

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures Protest Jury Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Protest fee refunded: **Yes / No** Refunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Association Rep: \_\_\_\_\_



## CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM

### Nation against a player

Association/Country that protest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Protested athletes data:** Association/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M - F

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for protest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note :**

**Protest must be submitted to the Chief Classifier or Classification Secretary following the Protest procedure.**

**Protest fee €150,00 must be handed to the Chief Classifier at the competition at which the protest should be resolved, before starting the procedure with a copy of Protest form.**

**If the protest is accepted, the €150,00 protest fee will be refunded to the protester.**

**If the protest is not accepted, the protest fee will not be refunded.**

**Signatures:**

Association Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Classifier: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PROTEST RESOLUTION**

Protest: **accepted / not accepted**

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date and place:

Signatures Protest Jury Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Protest fee refunded : **Yes / No** Refunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Association Rep: \_\_\_\_\_



## CLASSIFICATION RE-EVALUATION FORM

Association/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M - F

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason of classification re-evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note :**

**This completed form must be submitted to the Classification Secretary two (2) weeks before the event.**

**If the re-evaluation is accepted, the athlete must give the Chief Classifier a copy of this form, all medical documents and the re-evaluation fee of €50,00.**

**If there are no medical documents, the re-evaluation fee is €150,00.**

**If the re-evaluation is accepted, the fee will be refunded to the Association Representative.**

**If the re-evaluation is not accepted, the fee will not be refunded.**

**Signatures:**

Association Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Classifier: \_\_\_\_\_

**Re-evaluation resolution**

Re-evaluation: **change of class**    **accepted / not accepted**

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place:

Signatures Re-evaluation Classifiers: \_\_\_\_\_

Re-evaluation fee refunded: **Yes / No**    Refunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Association Rep: \_\_\_\_\_



**APPEAL FORM**  
**An appeal against procedure**

Association/Country that appeals: \_\_\_\_\_

**Athlete's data related to the protest:** Association/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M - F

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note :**

**The appeal, in English, must be submitted to the Technical Delegate within 1 hour of the classification or protest being completed specifying the procedures which were not allegedly followed.**

**An appeal fee €150,00 must be handed to the Technical Delegate at the competition at which the appeal should be resolved.**

**If the appeal is upheld, the €150,00 fee will be refunded to the appellant.**

**If the protest is not rejected, the fee will not be refunded.**

**Signatures:**

Association Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical Delegate: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROTEST RESOLUTION**

Appeal: **accepted / not accepted**

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date and place:

Signatures Jury Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Appeal fee refunded : **Yes / No** Refunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Association Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

## D. SPORT CLASS ALLOCATION CRITERIA

### CLASSIFICATION FOR SITTING CLASSES 1 TO 5

**NOTE:** the explanation and clarification of the examples in the classification manual and set out below can only be done by the ITTF-PTT Classification Committee and each part in italics is merely an example for that class and should be confirmed by the classification panel after observing the player in action. This is done on the basis that no two athletes are exactly the same.

The minimal disability in sitting classes is assessed for class 5 as follows:

- ⊙ The class 5 player is not able to stand and/or walk without two crutches
- ⊙ Is not able to step sideways
- ⊙ Stands with hyperlordosis and hip posterior tilt if not using crutches
- ⊙ When sitting, the athlete is not able to make bend fully to the side (e.g. to pick up a ball from the ground beside the wheelchair) at normal speed and raise again with normal speed
- ⊙ There also is reduction of speed in forward/backward movement
- ⊙ Neurological level of the spinal cord lesion is at S1-2
- ⊙ All athletes with polio or other causes must be comparable to the impairments mentioned above
- ⊙ All athletes with more functions than mentioned above play in the standing classes

#### **Class 1:**

*No sitting balance with severe reduction of function in the playing arm*

- Very weak grip, weak wrist flexion, no elbow extension because of no functional triceps
- Neck and shoulder functions are normal
- Elbow extension results of a swinging action in the shoulder in case of the forehand stroke. In case of a backhand stroke it results from external rotation combined with anteflexion in the shoulder and relaxation of the biceps
- The non-playing arm takes care for the trunk position (balance function)

*Examples for illustrative purposes only:*

- Spinal cord lesion at C5 or higher
- Severe loss of function after polio. Loss of shoulder function may be compensated by some trunk function especially rotation
- Cerebral palsy with poor balance and reduction of arm co-ordination
- Each other condition that fits in this profile

#### **Class 2:**

*No sitting balance with reduction of function in the playing arm*

- No normal strength of hand function
- Elbow extension is sufficient and functional (strength 4-5)
- The non-playing arm keeps the trunk in position

*Examples for illustrative purposes only:*

- Spinal cord lesion C5 - C7 included
- Polio with weak hand and no trunk function
- CP with less severe reductions than in class 1
- Each other condition that fits in this profile

#### **Class 3:**

*No sitting balance, although the upper part of the trunk may show activity*

*Normal arms*, although some slight motor losses can be found in the playing hand without significant effect on table tennis skills

The non-playing arm keeps the trunk in position

*Examples for illustrative purposes only:*

- Spinal cord lesion C8 - T9 included
- Polio without trunk balance and normal arm function. Some loss of function in the playing arm and-or loss of support of the non-playing arm may be compensated by preserved trunk function
- CP with some reduced trunk functions and almost normal arm function concerning speed of movement and co-ordination
- Each other condition that fits to this profile

#### **Class 4:**

*Existing sitting balance although not optimal because of non-existing anchorage (stabilisation) of the pelvis*

The amount of balance depends on the amount of intact abdominal and back muscles

If the higher regions of the abdominal-back muscles are intact only weak rotation is possible

More functional muscles result in forward bending with a hollow back (lordosis) and with even more muscle function sideward bending is possible with a hollow curvature of the side

*Examples for illustrative purposes only:*

- Spinal cord lesion T8 - L2 included
- Comparable function in polio or orthopedic conditions
- CP with better function than class 3

#### **Class 5:**

*Normal function of trunk muscles*

Sufficient activity of the pelvic-leg muscles giving pelvic anchorage and a bigger surface of the sitting support

Bending forward and sideward is done by a non-hollow back (normal curve)

*Examples for illustrative purposes only:*

- SCL L1 - S2 included
- Any other impairment fitting in this functional profile

### **CLASSIFICATION FOR STANDING CLASSES 6 TO 10**

The minimal disability in standing classes is assessed for class 10 as follows:

- ⊙ They include only very mild impairments in one extremity, be that the upper or lower or back (including neck)
- ⊙ If, in the lower extremity and back, the disability usually reduces the normal function related to table tennis:
  - In the back (trunk), the impairment affects proper rotation which is visibly apparent and influences play
  - The impairment of the lower extremity may mildly affect the balance and displacement and rotation of the hips
- ⊙ If, in the upper extremity, it may be divided into the playing arm or non playing arm:
  - In playing arm, there should be a very mild impairment
  - In the non playing arm, there may be a severe to moderate impairment
- ⊙ The impairment of the playing arm may very mildly affect reach, speed of the swing and strength of the grip during forehand and/or backhand strokes

- ⊙ The impairment of the non playing arm very mildly affects the compensatory and reinforcement motions

*Examples for illustrative purposes only:*

Lower extremity

- One stiff ankle
- Amputation of one third of one foot
- Hip instability (hip subluxation)
- Moderate to mild stiffness of the joints
- Loss of ten points in muscle strength in one leg

Trunk

- Stiffness (ankylosing spondylitis)
- Extreme curvatures of the back (kyphosis, scoliosis, kyphoscoliosis, hyperlordosis)
- Muscular dystonia
- Fusion

Playing arm

- Finger amputation/dysmelias with functional grip (more than 4 phalanges loss, thumb not taken in consideration)
- Stiff wrist with functional grip
- Weakness of the hand or a joint of the arm

Non playing arm

- Amputation below the elbow with a stump length less than the half of the forearm or comparable malformations (dysmelias)
- Paralysis of the arm with some residual functions (brachial plexus lesion).

The classes are described in *italics*.

### **Class 6:**

*Severe impairments of legs and arms*

- severe Cerebral Palsy (CP) – hemiplegia with playing arm included
- severe CP – diplegia playing arm included
- severe CP – athetoid (involuntary slow movements)
  - abnormal strokes
  - poor balance
  - poor movements
- amputation on playing arm and leg(s) or both arms and leg(s) or similar dysmelias
- double above knee amputation (double AK)
- arthrogryposis playing arm and leg(s) or both arms and leg(s)
- muscular dystrophy of limbs and trunk or other neuromuscular disability of comparable impairment profile
- incomplete spinal cord injury of comparable profile
- a player with the handle of the racket in his or her mouth
- any disability with comparable functional profile

### **Class 7:**

*Very severe impairments of legs (poor static and dynamic balance)*

- severe polio of both legs
- single AK plus single BK (below knee amputation)
- incomplete spinal cord injury of comparable profile
- a player with hip disarticulation or above knee amputation without any support who plays on one leg

- single AK with short non-functional stump (20%) with or without a prosthesis

or

*Severe to moderate impairments of playing arm*

- single AE (above elbow amputation) of playing arm or both arms
- single BE (below elbow amputation) 1/3 of forearm (the forearm = the length of the ulna)
- arthrogryphosis of arm(s)
- dysmelia of comparable profile

or

*Combination of arms and legs impairments less severe than in class 6*

*Moderate CP hemiplegia or diplegia playing arm included*

- mild impairment in playing arm and moderate impairment in legs
- moderate impairment in playing arm and mild impairment in legs

or

*Any disability with comparable functional profile*

### **Class 8:**

*Moderate impairments of the legs*

- one non-functional leg
  - polio on one leg
  - single AK
  - stiff hip and stiff knee (together)
  - hip luxation with visible shortening
- two moderate legs
  - polio
  - double BK
  - incomplete Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), spina bifida level S1
  - two stiff knees consider class 7 or 8

or

*Moderate impairments of playing arm (considering that elbow and shoulder control is very important)*

- single BE with long stump more than 1/3 but without functional wrist joint
- stiff elbow concerning flexion-extension and pronation-supination
- severe reduced shoulder motion (almost stiff)

or

*Moderate CP hemiplegia or diplegia with good playing arm*

- playing arm almost normal with moderate problems of leg(s) movements

or

*Any disability with comparable functional profile*

### **Class 9:**

#### *Mild impairments of the leg(s)*

- polio of leg(s) but with good movements
- single BK
- stiff hip
- stiff knee
- severe reduction of the Range Of Motion (ROM) of the hip
- severe reduction of the ROM of the knee
- incomplete spina bifida

or

#### *Mild impairments of playing arm*

- amputation through the hand or fingers amputation without functional grip
- stiff wrist and fingers without functional grip
- moderate reduction of the ROM of the elbow
- moderate reduction of the ROM of the shoulder

or

#### *Severe impairments of non-playing arm*

- amputation through the shoulder
- brachial plexus lesion with paralysis of the whole arm

or

#### *Mild CP with hemiparesis or monoplegia*

- almost normal playing arm with minimal problems of the legs

or

#### *Any disability with comparable functional profile*

### **Class 10 (minimal disabilities standing classes)**

#### *Very mild impairments in legs*

- single stiff ankle
- amputation of forefoot through all metatarsals (minimal 1/3 of foot amputated)
- hip (sub)luxation
- moderate to mild reduction of ROM in the major joints
- polio : loss of 10 points in muscles strength in one lower extremity distributed over the whole leg
- polio : 10 points of loss over two legs is not considered to meet the minimal disability

or

#### *Very mild impairment of playing arm*

- finger amputation/dysmelia with functional grip (more than 4 phalanges loss - thumb not taken in consideration)
- stiff wrist with functional grip
- weakness of the hand or a joint of the arm

or

*Severe to moderate impairment of non-playing arm*

- single BE with a stump length not longer than 2/3 of forearm (the forearm = the length of the ulna)
- brachial plexus lesion with some residual functions
- dysmelia or similar disabilities not longer than 2/3 of the forearm

or

*Moderate impairment of the trunk*

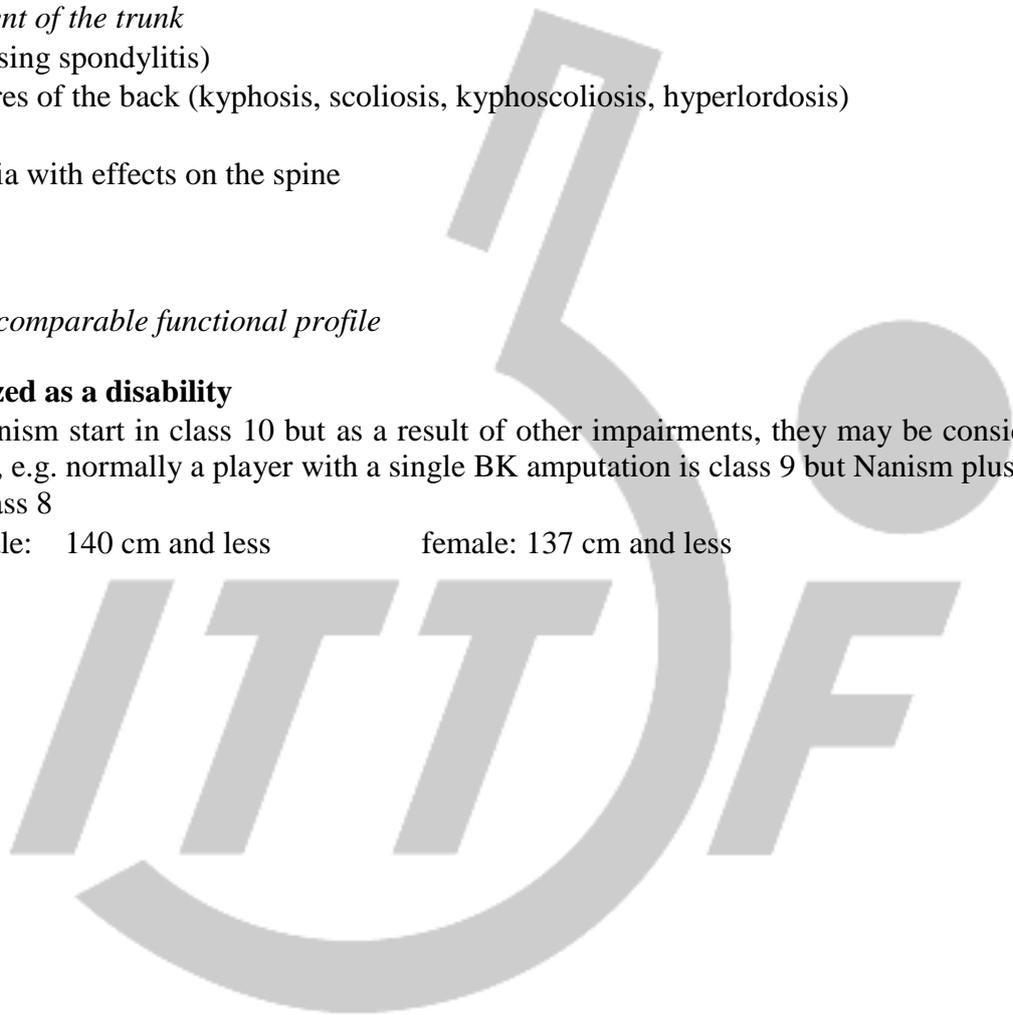
- stiffness (ankylosing spondylitis)
- extreme curvatures of the back (kyphosis, scoliosis, kyphoscoliosis, hyperlordosis)
- fusion
- muscular dystonia with effects on the spine

or

*Any disability with comparable functional profile*

**Nanism is recognized as a disability**

- athletes with Nanism start in class 10 but as a result of other impairments, they may be considered for a lower class, e.g. normally a player with a single BK amputation is class 9 but Nanism plus BK amputation is class 8
- body length: male: 140 cm and less                      female: 137 cm and less



# Para Table Tennis

## E. GLOSSARY

<b>Ability</b>		A quality or state of being able to perform.
<b>Activity Limitation</b>		Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities
<b>Appeal</b>		The process to resolve procedural disputes concerning classification.
<b>Association</b>		The organization recognized by ITTF as the sole national governing body for table tennis in a territory.
<b>Athlete</b>		For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the International Level (as defined by the ITTF) or national level (as defined by each Association) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Association.
<b>Athlete Evaluation</b>		The process by which an athlete is assessed in accordance with the classification rules of the ITTF.
<b>Athlete Support Personnel</b>		Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or competition.
<b>Chef de Mission or Team Leader</b>		The official appointed by the Association as the head of the delegation for the competition.
<b>Chief Classifier</b>		The internationally certified classifier responsible for all administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for a competition.
<b>Classification</b>		A structure for competition to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes.
<b>Classification Master List</b>		The list, made available by the ITTF, which identifies athletes who have been classified at an international competition, the Sport Class, the Sport Class Status, country and birth date.

<b>Classification Panel</b>		A group of classifiers appointed by the ITTF to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules.
<b>Classification Rules</b>		The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions that guide athlete evaluation and the grouping of athletes for competition.
<b>Classification Strategy</b>		The development of a universal Classification Code with the overall objective to support and coordinate the development and implementation of accurate, reliable, consistent and credible table tennis focused classification rules.
<b>Classifier</b>		A person authorised as a member of a classification panel by the ITTF to evaluate athletes.
<b>Code</b>		The ITTF Classification Code developed in accordance with the IPC Classification Code.
<b>Code of Conduct</b>		A set of rules to outline the responsibilities, to guide behaviour and decisions and to identify best practice for an individual classifier.
<b>Competency</b>		A skill, knowledge, ability or behavioural characteristic that is associated with excellent performance.
<b>Competition</b>		A series of events conducted together under one ruling body.
<b>Conflict of Interest</b>		A conflict of interest occurs where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.
<b>Cultural Diversity</b>		The knowledge, skills, and attributes/beliefs that enable people to work well with, respond effectively to, and be supportive of people in cross-cultural settings.
<b>Diagnosis</b>		A process of identifying a medical condition or disease by its signs, symptoms, and from the results of various diagnostic procedures.

<b>Eligibility</b>		The type and minimum severity of impairment set as the minimal condition to enter competition in table tennis.
<b>Evidence-based</b>		Practices or procedures on the basis of accepted (scientific) methods that have been shown valid, effective and reliable.
<b>Governance</b>		The management or leadership responsible for the decision-making process.
<b>Head Coach</b>		The official appointed by the Association as the head of the coaching staff for the competition
<b>Impairment</b>		Limitation in body function or structure such as a significant deviation or loss.
<b>In Competition</b>		The athlete has the status of being selected for a specific competition.
<b>Ineligibility</b>		Consequence of not meeting the eligibility criteria.
<b>International Classification Card</b>		A card which is given to the athlete indicating his or her Sport Class and Sport Class Status, a copy of which is kept by the Classification Secretary.
<b>International Competition</b>		A competition where an international sports organization (IPC, ITTF, Major Competition Organisation, or another international sport organisation) is the governing body for the competition or appoints the technical officials and classifiers for the competition.
<b>International Federation</b>		A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic Athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC.
<b>International Standard</b>		A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.
<b>IPC</b>		International Paralympic Committee recognised as the world-wide organisation responsible for sport for athletes with disabilities and the Paralympic Games.

<b>IPC Classification Committee</b>		The IPC Standing Committee that is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to classification within the Paralympic Movement.
<b>ITTF Code of Ethics</b>		The ethical standard that will be applied consistently within the ITTF and be applicable to all ITTF Sanctioned Events, Competitions and activities.
<b>Local Organising Committee</b>		The organisation which undertakes to organise a competition in a particular country according to the rules and regulations of the PTT Division.
<b>Major Competition Organisation</b>		The continental associations of National Federations, National Paralympic Committees and other international multi-sport organisations that function as the ruling body for any continental, regional or other international competition.
<b>Measurable</b>		Comparable to a standard.
<b>Medical Officer</b>		A Classifier responsible for all administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for the IF.
<b>Models of Best Practice</b>		Examples of excellence related to Classification.
<b>National Competition</b>		A competition where the National Association is the governing body for the competition or appoints the technical officials and classifiers for the competition.
<b>National Paralympic Committee (NPC)</b>		A national organisation recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of athletes with a disability in that country or territory to the IPC for the purposes of coordinating teams to compete in the Paralympic Games. In addition, the recognised National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF.
<b>Objective</b>		Supported by (scientific) evidence or relevant facts and viewpoints.
<b>Out of Competition</b>		Not in-competition.

<b>Paralympic Games</b>		Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.
<b>Permanent</b>		A health condition or impairment that is unlikely to be resolved and, meaning the principal effects are life-long.
<b>Player Classification Form</b>		A form completed before a competition containing the athlete's surname, name, date of birth, country with the data in the athlete's passport or other relevant ID.
<b>Proficient</b>		Skilful in the practice of fundamentals deriving from knowledge, practice and experience.
<b>Protest</b>		The procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status is submitted and subsequently resolved.
<b>Protest Panel</b>		A panel consisting of at minimum an equal number of classifiers as the classification panel, with equal or a greater level of classification expertise to assess an athlete evaluation after a Protest has been submitted.
<b>Public Disclosure</b>		Dissemination or distribution of information to the general public or to persons beyond those persons entitled to earlier notification.
<b>Referee</b>		The official appointed by the ITTF to be responsible for all technical issues related to the competition, including the draw, schedule of matches and allocation of umpires among other duties.
<b>Signatories</b>		The governing bodies of IPC, the ITTF and the NPCs that accept the Classification Code.
<b>Sport Class</b>		A category defined by the ITTF in which athletes are categorised by reference to an activity limitation resulting from an impairment/s.
<b>Sport Class Status</b>		A category allocated to each athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.

<b>Technical Delegate</b>	The official appointed by the ITTF responsible for organisational issues beyond the field of play.
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# Para Table Tennis